



Zero Waste Arlington April 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/25/24

Time: 7:15 pm

Location: Grove St

Attendees: Priya Sankalia, Larry Slotnick, Paul Goldberg, Amy Speare, Scott Mullen, Jennifer Campbell, Emily, Jim, Charlotte

Agenda

1. Old Business
 - a. Review and approve March 2024 ZWA meeting minutes.
2. New Business
 - a. Tabling Events update
 - b. Town Meeting Report
 - c. ZWA Committee Governance
 - d. Subcommittee updates
 - e. Miscellaneous Topics

Minutes

1. The committee approved the minutes for the Feb and Mar 2024 meetings.
2. ZWA Committee Governance
 - a. Larry provided an update on a meeting with Jim Fenney (Town Manager) which Larry and Charlotte attended - Priya could not make it.
 - b. Jim shared his perspective - he has seen some valuable results come out of our campaigns, we're a committee that operates well. The Town does not have the resources to give us any help in strategizing. Going outside to find a facilitator would be prohibitively expensive, though we could possibly identify people who could help facilitate for a small fee.
 - i. Further conversation about year to year governance; leadership; how to set it up so the committee is self-sustaining year to year.
 - ii. Suggestion to rotate co-chairs; keep it a one year term.
 - c. Discussion

- i. Amy suggested a chair and a vice-chair with the assumption that the vice chair will be the chair the following year
 - ii. The minute taking could also be a rotating task month to month.
 - iii. Larry and Priya are both interested in stepping down from co-chair
 - iv. Outline the roles in a document - a lot of it is coordination; making decisions; what are the key functions? Event coordination; coordinating outreach for committee participation - recruitment and volunteer coordination; Charlotte talked about the yearly calendar - managing the calendar, budget and coordinating with the Recycling Coordinator.
 - v. Reinstate the Outreach coordinator as a role
 - vi. What is the purpose of the monthly meeting and the subcommittee meetings (Emily); May/June - review what are our limitations (Charlotte)
 - vii. Paul - what is the overall purpose over the next few years - 2, 5, 10 years. Also how do we educate people
 - viii. Charlotte - what is the committee's interest? We are volunteers doing a lot but the outreach piece is her job - the education piece is something she does. She does want us to ask her if there are things that the committee would like her to do.
 - ix. Jim would like to have more discussion on policy matters - greater awareness about the town policies.
 - x. Larry talked about how other towns have Solid Waste Advisory Committees
 - xi. Amy - we should move Charlotte's update earlier in our meeting
 - xii. Paul - Charlotte should be a check on our activities to make sure we're doing what is most relevant.
 - xiii. Charlotte says we could work on a ZWA plan for the town!
3. Update from Charlotte
- a. June 2025 the towns waste management contract runs out; now is the time to put out for bids
 - b. Goal is to get a comprehensive hauling contract; including stuff like organics; likely it is going to be at least 50% higher
 - c. Eventual goal is to institute smaller trash limits (21 lbs a week is an average); so reigning in the big producers is hard since we don't have a small trash limit; automated program. Based on a contract from Brookline and Newton. Bids will come in in the next 6 weeks.
4. Tabling Events
- a. Priya gave Sarah's update - follow up on a couple of the events with some volunteers
 - b. Beer Garden update - Larry will follow up with Menotomy on potential solutions for a pilot to use our green cups.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45